

**Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities
June 27, 2016 – 7:00pm
Town Hall, Room 217**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call meeting to order at 7:08pm by David Siegel/Jonathan Slifka

Present: Co-Chairman Joshua Rucker, Co-Chairman Jonathan Slifka, David Siegel, Patricia Groves, Melinda Montavani, Nick Delaney, Joe Kalache, Rebecca Hajosy, and Kelley Fournier

Others Present: West Hartford Registrar of Voters: Beth Kyle (Republican Registrar) and Beth Sweeney (Democrat Registrar)

Absent: Michael Haeflich, Megan O'Neill, Deb Polun

2. New Business

A. Registrar of Voters

For the purpose of time, a guest presentation from the West Hartford Registrar of Voters was moved up to the top of the agenda. Both Registrars, Beth Kyle and Beth Sweeney, were in attendance to discuss polling place access for person with disabilities. Beth Kyle began by providing an update on access following recent elections.

The largest issues for accessibility are: a) accessibility into the polling place, b) enough handicap parking at polling places, and, c) technical problems with the IVS (Interactive Voting System) voting machine itself. All of which the Registrars are working on with various town and state agencies and partners to making better for future elections.

The Registrar of Voters will provide the Commission opportunities to support making elections better for all voters. These opportunities include: attending and presenting at polling training for poll workers this summer and before November election, checking polling locations throughout town to provide feedback on location set-up to make location more accessible, and disseminating information (which will be provided by the registrar's office) regarding voting access, polling location access, and expectations for modified voting. Both Registrars will continue to work with the Commission and its members to gather feedback and thoughts on how to make the voting process better for all West Hartford voters.

B. Construction and ADA

Co-Chairman Joshua Rucker updated the Commission on ADA regulations and requirements during construction projects. The topic was brought to him by commission member Nick Delaney, who was concerned about sidewalk accessibility around the hotel construction project in West Hartford's Blue Back Square. According to ADA regulations, accessible exterior right of ways must be maintained during construction projects. Additionally, when a building permit has to be issued for a construction project, accessibility around the project should be considered before issuing the permit. Members of the commission will continue to be aware of these issues and bring any question to the Board to review and next steps.

C. ADA Notices to Businesses

Finally, the commission discussed how to address businesses in West Hartford that may not be ADA compliant. Co-Chairman Joshua Rucker noticed the primary entrance at Rizutto's in Blue Back Square is not accessible. After a discussion on how the Commission should appropriately address these types of issues, the Commission concluded to notify the Town Manager and/or other Town agencies of any ADA compliance issues to manage. The Commission will work alongside the Town, when necessary, to encourage access barrier removal and remediation.

3. Approval of Minutes

Co-Chairman Joshua Rucker next asked the Commission to review and called for a motion to approve the minutes for the previous Commission meeting held May 9th, 2016. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Melinda Montavani and seconded by Nick Delaney. The motion passed and the previous meeting minutes were approved.

4. Announcements

Co-Chairman Jonathan Slifka announced that a public bill signing will be held for the new handicap symbol. The public bill signing will be held on Wednesday, June 29th at 2pm at The Arc of Farmington Valley, located at 22 Commerce Street in Canton, Connecticut. Commission members are encouraged to attend, if possible.

5. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Melinda Montovani and seconded by Co-Chairman Jonathan Slifka. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12th at 7pm in Room 217.